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(*e*) what the scheme is which required geological survey and what the findings of the Geologist are; and

(*f*) when the Government propose to tackle seriously the question of water-supply to Penukonda?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" (*a*) All the recommendations are under the active consideration of the Government. No final orders have been passed on any of them.

" (*b*) The question is under consideration.

" (*c*) Yes.

" (*d*) Yes.

" (*e*) A well was ordered to be sunk at a cost of Rs. 10,200 in 1946 but the work was not proceeded with as sufficient water was not tapped at a depth of about 63 feet. The Geologist was deputed to see whether this well could not be improved and also to explore other ways of affording water-supply. His finding was that the well under construction was useless. He suggested three alternative proposals for affording supply of water to Penukonda :—

(1) Wells to be sunk between Islapuram and Timmapuram villages;

(2) wells to be sunk near Ramapuram; and

(3) wells to be sunk in Pennar river either near Roddam village or between Dondapalli and Peddamanathuru.

" (*f*) The Government have recently asked the Sanitary Engineer to go and inspect the locality himself or to depute the Executive Engineer (Public Health) for the purpose, and submit detailed proposals and estimates for the provision of drinking water for Penukonda and neighbouring villages. His report is awaited."

SRI B. BHIMA RAO :—" Are the Government aware that water is not available in Penukonda and that the people have to wait at the draw wells throughout the night to take water?"

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" Yes, Sir, during the dry season water is not available and it is brought from the neighbouring villages."

SRI B. BHIMA RAO :—" Why do not the Government give priority to sinking wells in villages within two or three miles of Penukonda and provide water for the town? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" An officer is investigating a scheme in the bed of the river Hagari. It is estimated to cost about 8 lakhs."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" In view of the scarcity of water in Penukonda, will the Government give the highest priority to the scheme as soon as the investigating officer's report is received? "

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THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" There is scarcity of water in many places. The scheme will be given as high a priority as possible."

SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM :—" త్రాగుటకు మంచినీరు దొరుకక ప్రజలు బాధపడుచున్న ప్రదేశాలలో మంచినీటి నూతులను త్రవ్వించునపుడు అనుభవముగలిగి నటువంటి **water diviners** యొక్క సహాయమును పొందటానికి ప్రభుత్వమువారు ప్రయత్నము చేస్తారా?"

DEPUTY PRESIDENT :—" The hon. Member's question is whether the Government will utilize the services of water diviners to find out the existence of subterranean water in that place."

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" I am not sure whether the employment of water diviners will serve any useful purpose."

SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM :—" సైదాపేట తాలూకాలో కాలిముత్తు అనే **water diviner** ఉన్నాడని, అవసరమైనచో అతని **services** ఉపయోగించుకొన వచ్చునని ప్రభుత్వమువారు జిల్లా కలెక్టర్లకు ఒక **communication** పంపినారా ?"

DEPUTY PRESIDENT :—" The hon. Member wants to know whether the Government have sent a communication to a water diviner by name Kali Muthu to find out the existence of water in different places."

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" I cannot give a reply off-hand. A separate question may be put."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" May I know whether this Government believe in water divining?"

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" I do not think the Government have any opinion on the subject."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" Are the Government aware that in the Bombay Province water diviners are engaged?"

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" That is an information which will have to be verified."

SRI B. BHIMA RAO :—" Are the Government aware that a water diviner was engaged in the Bellary district in 1935 and that the water he struck in twelve places was brackish and unfit for human consumption?"

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" I am thankful to the hon. Member for the very valuable information."

Steps taken to ward off malaria in the Tungabhadra Project area.

* 112 Q.—SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state— 11-45 a.m.

(*a*) what active steps are being taken by the Government to ward off malaria in the Tungabhadra **Project area** ;

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(*b*) whether there are other towns and villages in Bellary district especially in the western taluks of the district where malaria is prevalent throughout the year;

(*c*) whether the Government have advised the municipalities and panchayat boards in these taluks to undertake anti-malarial operations promising all possible assistance;

(*d*) whether actually anti-malarial measures have been formulated for the Panchayat Board area of Harpanahalli;

(*e*) whether the District Board, Bellary, has expressed its inability to bear the expenditure;

(*f*) whether the Government have under consideration any proposals to assist the local bodies to promote anti-malarial measures where they already exist and to compel other local bodies to start them; and

(*g*) what the areas in the Province are in which anti-malarial measures are being actually undertaken?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" (*a*) Tungabhadra Project Antimalarial Scheme was started in the Project area in 1945 with one first-class Health Officer and necessary staff in charge of the scheme. Anti-malarial operations are being carried out since then in the Dam-site, Hospet Municipality, Canal camps and in 88 endemic villages in the Project area. The operations consist of Paris-greening of breeding places of carrier species of mosquitoes, clean-weeding of channels and vankas, minor engineering works like closing of burrow pits and draining of water stagnations. Spraying with pyrethrum mixture and DDT. emulsion are also being carried out. Free distribution of quinine and quinine substitutes is done in the whole project area. Antimosquito repellent cream was distributed recently in certain parts of the area as an experimental measure and found to be very effective. Larvicidal fish are introduced in the wells where there is breeding of mosquitoes. The incidence of Malaria has been considerably reduced in the area.

" (*b*) Yes. In many places malaria is found to be seasonal, the malaria transmission season usually being August to February. Heavy rainfall in any year is usually followed by a greatly increased incidence of malaria.

" (*c*) No specific advice has been given to the local bodies in the matter—Anti-malarial measures have already been sanctioned for Bellary Municipality and Hirehal Panchayat. A scheme for the Harpanahalli Panchayat Board has been deferred as the Bellary District Board and the Panchayat Board expressed their inability to find funds for carrying out the scheme. In Hospet Municipality a scheme of anti-malaria measures is being carried out from Provincial funds as part of the Tungabhadra Project Scheme. The Government's financial aid to the local bodies for Anti-malaria Schemes is usually one-third of the actual cost of the schemes provided that such aid is justified taking into account the financial position of the local bodies concerned.

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" (*d*) Yes. A scheme of anti-malaria measures was formulated embodying proposals for permanent measures at a cost of Rs. 25,000 and temporary recurrent measures at a cost of Rs. 660 per annum.

" (*e*) Yes. Not only the District Board but also the Harpanahalli Panchayat Board have expressed their inability to meet any portion of the cost of the scheme. The scheme has therefore been deferred till such time as the Bellary District Board is in a position to meet its share of the cost.

" (*f*) The Government are already giving financial assistance wherever necessary equal to one-third of the actual expenditure on the scheme. In special cases, where a particular scheme is considered imperative and the local body concerned is unable to fully meet its share of the cost, a more liberal assistance is given by the Government. There is no proposal to compel a local body to start anti-malarial measures. Necessary provision for doing so, however, exists in the Madras Public Health Act, 1939.

" (*g*) Anti-malaria measures are now being carried out in the following areas :—

(1) A. Sundaicus scheme in North Vizagapatam district.

(2) Krishnadevipeta and extension schemes, South Vizagapatam district.

(3) Chintapalle Anti-malaria Scheme—South Vizagapatam district.

(4) Araku Valley Land Colonization Scheme, Vizagapatam Agency.

(5) Polavaram Investigation Centre with four sub-stations (East and West Godavari districts).

(6) Nellore District Anti-malaria Scheme.

(7) Guntur District Anti-malaria Scheme.

(8) Cuddapah Municipality Anti-malaria Scheme.

(9) Wynaad Land Colonization Scheme.

(10) Tungabhadra Project Anti-malaria Scheme.

(11) Chittoor District Board Anti-malaria Scheme.

(12) Kurnool Municipality Anti-malaria Scheme.

(13) Anantapur District—Kadiri Taluk Scheme.

(14) Ramapadasagar Project Scheme.

(15) Machkund Hydro-Electric Scheme.

(16) North Arcot District—Chengam Taluk Scheme.

(17) Salem District—Harur Taluk Scheme.

(18) Nugur Anti-malaria Scheme, East Godavari Agency.

(19) Paderu Anti-malaria Scheme, Vizagapatam Agency.

(20) Coimbatore District Scheme.

(21) Puttur taluk—South Kanara district.

(22) Lower Bhavani Project.

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(23) Cinchona Plantation—Anamalais Hills (Coimbatore district).

(24) Malabar District—New Settlers' Colonies.

(25) Kodaikanal and Palni Hills, Madura district."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" Sir, may I know in the long list which the Hon. Minister was good enough to read, whether in all cases the Government are only meeting one-third of the cost? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" Sir, as I have already said where the District Board finances do not permit sufficient contribution for the scheme and when the scheme is very urgent and necessary, the Government give larger grants for the scheme."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" Sir, may I know whether the case of Harpanahalli does not come under that category? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" The District Board as well as the Panchayat Board said that they are unable to meet any portion of the cost."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" If the District Board is really poor and if the Government are satisfied and if the Panchayat Board is also equally so, in view of the ravages of Malaria, do not the Government consider it necessary to waive in such cases insistence on contributing their portion of the cost? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" Such matters will be considered on their merit."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" Sir, will the case of Harpanahalli be considered on its merit? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" Yes, Sir."

[*Note*.—**An asterisk (*) at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by the Member.**]

GOVERNMENT BILL.

II.—THE MADRAS ESTATES (REPEAL AND CONVERSION INTO RYOTWARI) BILL, 1947 (L.A. BILL No. 37 OF 1947)—*cont*.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT :—" Now, we shall resume discussion on the Zamindari Abolition Bill. Already we took three days to discuss this Bill. To-day we shall finish the general discussion and I am going to fix a time-limit of 30 minutes as per rule 64 (2) which says—

'(2) *The President may, by general order, prescribe a time-limit for speeches on Bills or resolutions or amendments to a Bill or resolution, or on adjournment motions under rule* 36.'

Therefore, I request hon. Members to confine their speeches within 30 minutes. Now, Mr. Natarajan will continue his speech."

* SRI K. NATARAJAN :—" Mr. Deputy President, Sir, I was myself feeling that I was somehow not in order in taking up so much time of the House the other day and I also now feel I must, as far as possible, stick up to the time-limit imposed by the Deputy